

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A tool for deploying an expandable structure into interior body regions, the tool comprising:

a catheter body defining an interior lumen and having a distal end opening through which a substance may be flowed outwardly from the interior lumen into an interior body **portion** region,

an expandable structure having a distal end and carried by the catheter body, and

a stylet having a proximal end and being sized and configured for passage through the interior lumen and adapted to straighten the expandable structure during deployment into an interior body region, the stylet being selectively insertable into and withdrawable from an interior of the expandable structure via the interior lumen,

the distal end opening of the catheter body being configured to prevent outward movement of the stylet therethrough.

2. (Previously presented) The tool as in claim 1, wherein the stylet is substantially rigid.

3. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 1, wherein the stylet is made of stainless steel.

4. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 1, wherein, after passage of the stylet through the lumen, the proximal end of the stylet is coupleable to the catheter body.

5. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 1, wherein, after passage of the stylet through the lumen, the stylet abuts against the distal end of the expandable structure.

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A tool for deploying an expandable structure into interior body regions, the tool comprising:

a catheter tube assembly including an outer elongated body and an inner elongated body, the outer elongated body defining an outer body lumen sized and shaped for passage of the inner elongated body therethrough, the inner elongated body defining an inner body lumen,

an expandable structure disposed on at least a portion of the outer and the inner elongated bodies,

a stylet having a proximal end and being sized and shaped for passage through the inner body lumen and adapted to straighten the expandable structure during insertion into the interior body region, the stylet being selectively insertable into and withdrawable from a lumen of the expandable structure via the inner body lumen,

the inner elongated body having an open distal end configured to prevent movement of the stylet outwardly therethrough, the open distal end being in communication with the inner body lumen such that a substance introduced into a proximal opening of the inner body passes through the inner body lumen and is discharged from the tool through the distal opening of the inner body.

8. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein the expandable structure has a proximal end and a distal end such that the proximal end of the expandable structure is coupled to a distal end of the outer elongated body and the distal end of the expandable structure is coupled to a distal end of the inner elongated body.

9. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein the outer body lumen is in fluid communication with the lumen of the expandable structure such that insertion of a filling material into the outer body lumen passes into the lumen of the expandable structure to expand the expandable structure.

10. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 9, wherein the filling material is one of a bone cement, an allograft tissue, an autograft tissue, a hydroxyapatite, or a synthetic bone substitute.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein the stylet is substantially rigid.

13. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein the stylet is made of stainless steel.

14. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein, after passage of the stylet through the inner body lumen, the proximal end of the stylet is coupleable to the catheter tube assembly.

15. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 7, wherein, after passage of the stylet through the inner body lumen, the stylet abuts against a distal end of the expandable structure.

16. (Previously Presented) A tool for deploying an expandable structure into an interior body region, the tool comprising:

a catheter tube assembly including an outer body and an inner body, the outer body defining an outer body lumen sized and shaped for passage of the inner body therethrough, the inner body defining an inner body lumen,

an expandable structure disposed on a distal portion of the outer body and a distal portion of the inner body, the expandable structure having sufficient strength to compact cancellous bone,

a stylet having a proximal end and being sized and shaped for passage through the inner body lumen and adapted to straighten the expandable structure during deployment into the interior body region, and

a filling material flowable through the outer body lumen into the expandable structure for expansion of the expandable structure,

the expandable structure comprising a first segment expandable to a generally spherical shape and forming a first cavity, a second segment expandable to a generally spherical shape and forming a second cavity, and a joining section disposed between and interconnecting the first and second segments, the first expandable segment having a first expansion radius and the second expandable segment having a second expansion radius.

17. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 16, wherein the filling material is one of a bone cement, an allograft tissue, an autograft tissue, a hydroxyapatite, or a synthetic bone substitute.

18. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 16, wherein the expandable structure has a predetermined profile when filled with the filling material, wherein the predetermined profile of the expandable structure forms a desired profile in the cancellous bone when the expandable structure compacts cancellous bone .

19. (Canceled)

20. (Previously Presented) The tool as in claim 18, wherein the first expansion radius is greater than the second expansion radius when the expandable structure is expanded to the predetermined profile.